

Blueprint for Change: *Education Success for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System*

Legal Center for Youth Justice and Education



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ABA Center on Children and the Law



- **Mission** - To promote access to justice for children and families.
- **Structure** - Nonprofit grant-funded entity in the American Bar Association with team of attorneys and core staff who work on projects across the country unified by two goals:
 - *To improve legal representation, and*
 - *To improve the legal systems that impact children and families' lives.*
- **Approach** - Collaboration and coalition building at local, state and national levels to build the capacity of legal practices and systems that serve children well and to help change those that do not.

americanbar.org/child



LEGAL CENTER FOR
FOSTER CARE & EDUCATION

WWW.FOSTERCAREANDEDUCATION.ORG

- Listserv, Training Materials, Webinars, Factsheets and Issue Briefs
- Searchable Database (includes state laws & policies)
- Facilitate Networks: National Working Group/Education Advisory Group
- Provide state and local technical assistance and support





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Center on
Children and the Law
Access to Justice for Children & Families

Juvenile
Law Center
advancing the rights and
well-being of children in jeopardy

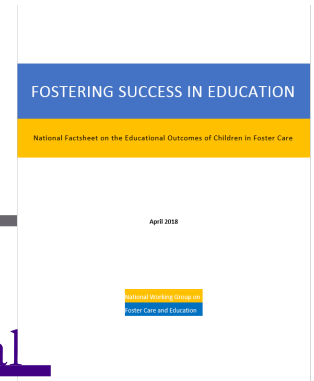
**EDUCATION
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www.fostercareandeducation.org

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What the Research Shows



National Working Group on Foster Care and Education (April 2018): Fostering Success in Education: National Factsheet on the Educational Outcomes of Children in Foster Care.

http://www.fostercareandeducation.org/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/Download.aspx?portalid=0&EntryId=2100&Command=Core_Download

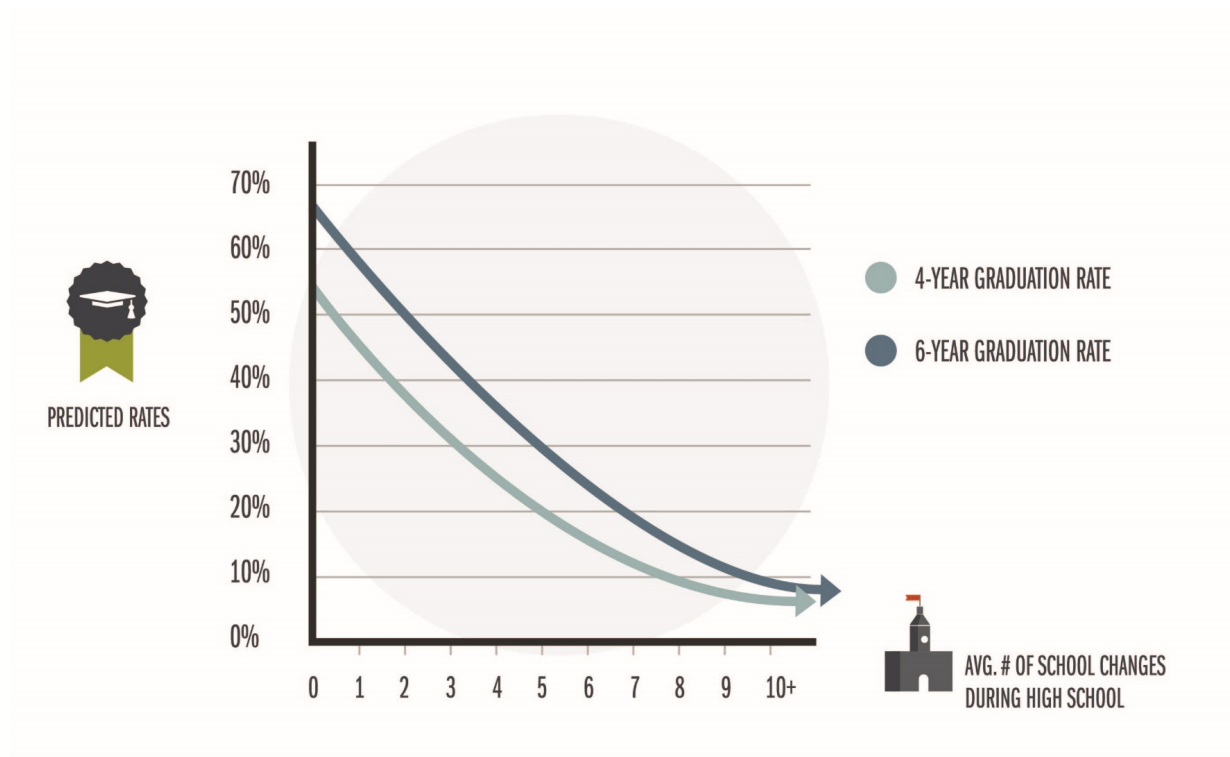
National Demographic Data of Youth in Foster Care*	
Number of children and youth in foster care on September 30, 2016	437,465
Number of children age 0-4	155,632
Number of children age 5-17 (typical school age)	268,517
Number of young adults age 18-21	13,316
Percentage with more than one living placement while in foster care	65%

*These data come from the most recent report from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) released November 30, 2017.

Fast Facts from National Datasheet

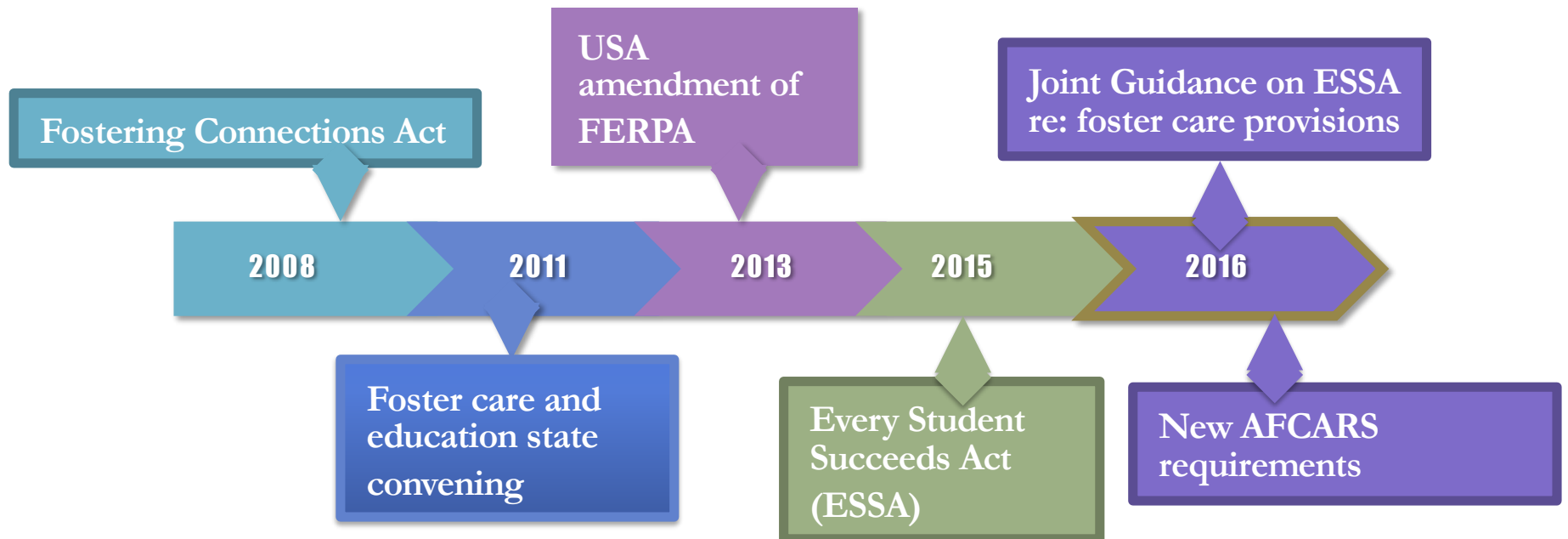
Educational Experience or Outcome	Findings
% of youth in foster care who change schools when first entering care	31% - 75% ²
% of 17- to 18-year-olds who experienced 5 or more school changes	34.2% ³
Likelihood of being absent from school	About twice that of other students ⁴
Likelihood of 17- to 18-year-old youth in foster care having out-of-school suspension	About twice that of other students ⁵ (In one study the rate was 24% vs. national general population rate of 7%) ⁶
Likelihood of 17- to 18-year-old youth in foster care being expelled	About 3 times that of other students ⁷
Reading level of 17- to 18-year-olds in foster care	Average level 7 th grade 44% at high school level or higher ⁸
% of youth in foster care receiving special education services	35.6% ⁹ - 47.3% ¹⁰
% of 17- to 18-year-old youth in foster care who want to go to college	70% ¹¹ - 84% ¹²
% of youth in foster care who complete high school by age 18 (via a diploma or GED)	Colorado: 41.8% ¹³ Midwest Study (age 19): 63% ¹⁴
% of youth in foster care who complete high school by age 21	65% by age 21 ¹⁵ (National data) (Compared with 86% among all youth ages 18-24 ¹⁶)
% of youth in foster care who graduated from high school who enrolled in college at some level	31.8% ¹⁷ - 45.3% ¹⁸ (Compared with national college enrollment rate of 69.2% in 2015, which is slightly below national record high of 70.2% in 2009) ¹⁹
% of foster care alumni who attain a bachelor's degree	3 - 10.8% ²⁰ (Compared with national college completion rate of a BA or higher of 32.5%) ²¹

Colorado Research Shows Link Between Mobility and Graduation



University of Northern Colorado, 2016.

Federal Policy Highlights



Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Overview

- **Remaining in the same school:**

- School of origin, unless it is not in their best interest.

- **Best interest determinations:**

- Factors including: appropriateness of the current educational setting, and proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement.
- Transportation *cannot* be a factor.

- **Transportation** – written procedures in place.

- **Immediate enrollment, if it is not in the child's best interest to remain in the school of origin:**

- Even without normally required records.
- The enrolling school must contact the previous school to obtain academic and other records.

Points of Contact

- **SEAs must designate a POC within their agency to work with child welfare agencies who will oversee implementation of the SEA responsibilities.**
 - Not McKinney-Vento

- **LEAs designate a POC for children in foster care**

Blueprint for Change: Education Success for Children in Foster Care



- **8 Goals** for Youth
- **Benchmarks** for each goal indicating progress toward achieving education success
- National, State, and Local **Examples**

www.fostercareandeducation.org/AreasofFocus/BlueprintforChange.aspx

Foster Care Blueprint for Change: Goals for Youth

Goal 1: Remain in the Same School

Goal 2: Seamless Transitions Between Schools

Goal 3: Young Children Are Ready to Learn

Goal 4: Equal Access to the School Experience

Goal 5: School Dropout, Truancy, and Disciplinary Actions Addressed

Goal 6: Involving and Empowering Youth

Goal 7: Supportive Adults as Advocates and Decisionmakers

Goal 8: Obtaining Postsecondary Education

One Blueprint Leads to Another



Blueprint for Change Education Success for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System

Overview of the Blueprint 10 Goals

- 1: Youth Voice
- 2: Adult Support
- 3: Educated in Community
- 4: Full Opportunities in Community
- 5: Quality Education in Facilities
- 6: Supportive School Environments
- 7: Career Pathways
- 8: Post-Secondary Access
- 9: Smooth Transitions
- 10: Protecting Especially Vulnerable Youth

GOAL 1: Youth are informed and entrusted to make decisions about their own education and future.

- 1.1 - Youth receive full information about educational opportunities available to them, and are regularly asked about their educational preferences and needs. Youth preferences, strengths, and needs are central to curricular and placement determinations.
- 1.2 - Youth receive training about their educational rights including due process and special education rights, and self-advocacy.
- 1.3 - Youth participate in school and juvenile justice system meetings about their education and future.
- 1.4 - Youth are given an opportunity to participate in court proceedings; courts and attorneys are trained on involving youth in court and in asking questions about educational interests, goals, and progress.
- 1.5 - Youth are supported by school and juvenile justice professionals with appropriate knowledge and training who engage youth in education planning.
- 1.6 - Youth opinions and wishes are prioritized in determining their educational decision maker, placement, educational goals and program, and post-secondary decisions, including living and school placement upon release.
- 1.7 - Youth with disabilities actively participate in special education meetings, the development of their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) including transition planning, and receive the support they need to be self-advocates.
- 1.8 - Youth who are English language learners and/or limited English proficient receive the supports they need to be effective self-advocates for their educational needs.

About The Blueprint

The Blueprint for Change: Education Success for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System presents 10 goals that set forth the broad framework for promoting education success for young people involved in the juvenile justice system. There are correlating Benchmarks for each Goal that, if achieved, would indicate progress toward improving educational outcomes. The Benchmarks are the more specific and concrete policies and strategies for achieving the broader goals.

About The Legal Center for Youth Justice and Education

The Legal Center for Youth Justice and Education (LCYJE) is a national collaboration of Southern Poverty Law Center, Juvenile Law Center, Education Law Center-PA, and the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law. Our mission is to ensure that all youth in and returning from the juvenile and criminal justice systems can access a quality education. We build collaborations among juvenile justice and education professionals, highlight innovative model litigation strategies, and work to reshape federal, state, and local policies.

The *Blueprints for Change* are tools for change.

- **direct case advocacy** and **system reform efforts.**
- tool for all **stakeholders** (including youth, parents, foster parents and other caregivers, lawyers, caseworkers, teachers and other school staff, child welfare and education system administrators, state agencies, and policymakers).
- written from a **youth's perspective**, as a constant reminder that the work we do always remains focused on the children and youth we serve.

Blueprint for Change

Education Success for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System

The Legal Center for Youth Justice and Education (LCYJE) is a national collaboration of

- [Southern Poverty Law Center](#)
- [Juvenile Law Center](#),
- [Education Law Center-PA](#), and the
- [American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law](#).

Our mission is to ensure that all youth in and returning from the juvenile and criminal justice systems can access a quality education. We build collaborations among juvenile justice and education professionals, highlight innovative strategies, and work to reshape federal, state, and local policies.

About the Blueprint

Presents **10 goals** that set forth the broad framework for promoting education success for young people involved in the juvenile justice system

Correlating **Benchmarks** for each Goal that, if achieved, would indicate progress toward improving educational outcomes

Examples of resources & promising policies, practices for each goal

Available as a searchable website at www.iieducationblueprint.org

General Resources: <https://www.iieducationblueprint.org/general-resources>



Blueprint for Change | x

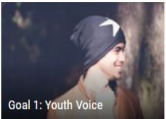
Secure | https://www.jjeducationblueprint.org

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Blueprint for Change
Education Success for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System

HOME GOALS STATES ABOUT


Blueprint for Change: Education Success for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System




Goal 1: Youth Voice




Goal 2: Adult Support



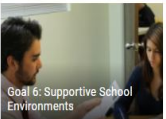
Goal 3: Educated in Community




Goal 4: Full Opportunities in Community



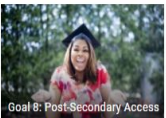
Goal 5: Quality Education in Facilities



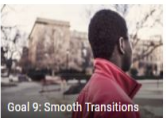
Goal 6: Supportive School Environments




Goal 7: Career Pathways




Goal 8: Post-Secondary Access



Goal 9: Smooth Transitions



Goal 10: Protect Especially Vulnerable Youth



General Resources

Get Started

[Browse by Goal](#) ⓘ

Find resources related to the Blueprint's key goals and benchmarks

[Browse by State](#) ⓘ

Learn about specific policies and practices in your state.

[General Resources and Policies](#) ⓘ

Find general resources and relevant federal policies

How to Use the Blueprint

The *Blueprint for Change* is a tool for change. The Goals and Benchmarks are a framework for both **direct case advocacy** and **system reform efforts**.

Direct Case Advocacy

The *Blueprint* can be used as a checklist or guide by advocates for youth to ensure that all education issues are being addressed. The *Blueprint* examples provide ideas for legal remedies and strategies to use to achieve the best education outcomes for a particular youth or group.

General Resources | Blue X


Secure

https://www.jjeducationblueprint.org/general-resources

Apps

For quick access, place your bookmarks here on the bookmarks bar. Import bookmarks now...

General Resources



Promising Resources, Policies, and Practices

Resources

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education Correctional Education Page

National

Addressing the Unmet Educational Needs of Children and Youth in the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and Georgetown University

National • 2012

Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings (CEEAS)

National

CLASP Report Realizing Youth Justice: Advancing Education, Employment, and Youth Empowerment through Public Policy and Investment, CLASP

National • 2016

Comprehensive Data About Protecting the Civil Rights of Students in the Juvenile Justice System

National • 2016

Comprehensive Training Modules for Educators Working with Youth in the Juvenile Justice System, The National Partnership for Juvenile Services

...

Browse by Topic or Goal

Goal 1: Youth Voice

Goal 2: Adult Support

Goal 3: Educated in Community

Goal 4: Full Opportunities in Community

Goal 5: Quality Education in Facilities

Goal 6: Supportive School Environments

Goal 7: Career Pathways

Goal 8: Post-Secondary Access

Goal 9: Smooth Transitions

Goal 10: Protect Especially Vulnerable Youth

General Resources

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Overview of the Blueprint

10 Goals

- 1: Youth Voice
- 2: Adult Support
- 3: Educated in Community
- 4: Full Opportunities in Community
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Blueprint Goals, 1 - 5

1: Youth are informed and entrusted to make decisions about their own education and future.

2: Youth have adult support in their education before, during and after involvement in the juvenile justice system.

3: After being charged or adjudicated delinquent, youth remain in the same school whenever feasible or enroll in a new school in their home community.

4: Youth involved in the juvenile justice system who are educated in the community receive access to the full range of educational opportunities and supports.

5: Youth in juvenile justice placements receive a high quality educational experience that enables them to stay on track academically.

Blueprint Goals, 6-10

6: Youth in juvenile justice placements are educated in a supportive, positive school environment where they feel safe and have a voice.

7: Youth have access to high quality career pathways programs, especially in juvenile justice placements.

8: Youth receive supports to prepare for, enter, and complete post-secondary education and training.

9: Youth have smooth transitions between home schools and schools in juvenile justice placements and receive effective reentry planning and supports.

10: All marginalized youth – and particularly youth of color, youth with disabilities, girls, LGBTQ youth, gender expansive and transgender youth, English Language Learners, youth who are involved with both child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and those with intersectional identities – are educated in their home schools rather than being disproportionately assigned to juvenile justice placements, and receive the services, support and protections they need to address their unique barriers to educational success.

Goal 5: Quality Education

Secure | <https://www.jjeducationblueprint.org/goal-5-quality-education-in-facilities>

Apps For quick access, place your bookmarks here on the bookmarks bar. Import bookmarks now...

Blueprint for Change


Education Success for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System

HOME GOALS STATES ABOUT

Goal 5: Quality Education in Facilities

Youth in juvenile justice placements receive a high quality educational experience that enables them to stay on track academically.

Window Setup



Browse by Topic or Goal

[Goal 1: Youth Voice](#)
[Goal 2: Adult Support](#)
[Goal 3: Educated in Community](#)
[Goal 4: Full Opportunities in Community](#)
[Goal 5: Quality Education in Facilities](#)
[Goal 6: Supportive School Environments](#)
[Goal 7: Career Pathways](#)
[Goal 8: Post-Secondary Access](#)
[Goal 9: Smooth Transitions](#)
[Goal 10: Protect Especially Vulnerable Youth](#)
[General Resources](#)

Benchmarks

5.1 - Upon arrival at all juvenile justice placements, a youth's educational needs and levels are assessed, with input from the youth and parents or other authorized education decision-maker.

5.2 - Youth are assessed for special education needs early on, referred for an initial evaluation where necessary, provided with an immediate temporary IEP where necessary, and benefit from the development and implementation of a comprehensive IEP.

5.3 - Youth are offered programs and instructional services that are responsive to their individual needs and free from racial or other bias.

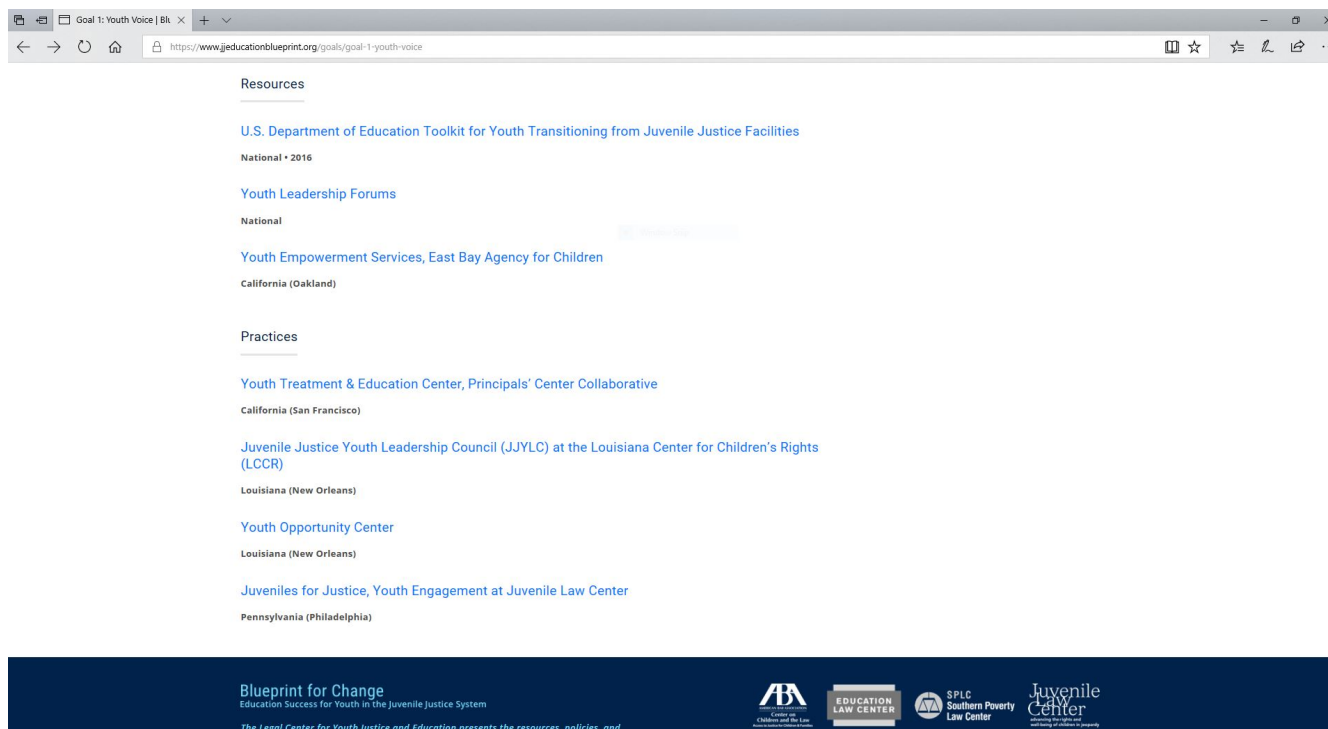
5.4 - Home school records are transferred immediately, both at the beginning of placement and at any point of transfer or exit from juvenile justice placement, and a student's participation in individualized education services are never delayed because school records have not yet been received.

5.5 - Youth in placement schools are provided with high quality academics and the same state-aligned curriculum and instructional time as would be provided in traditional public schools. Short-term detention facilities work in collaboration with local school districts to provide educational modules or other approaches to keep young people on

1: Youth are informed and entrusted to make decisions about their own education and future.

- Benchmarks: <https://www.iieducationblueprint.org/goals/goal-1-youth-voice>
- Benchmark Themes
 - Youth receive necessary information
 - Trainings on educational rights
 - Participate in school, juvenile justice meetings, court proceedings
 - Supports from school and juvenile justice professionals
 - Active participation in special education meetings and planning

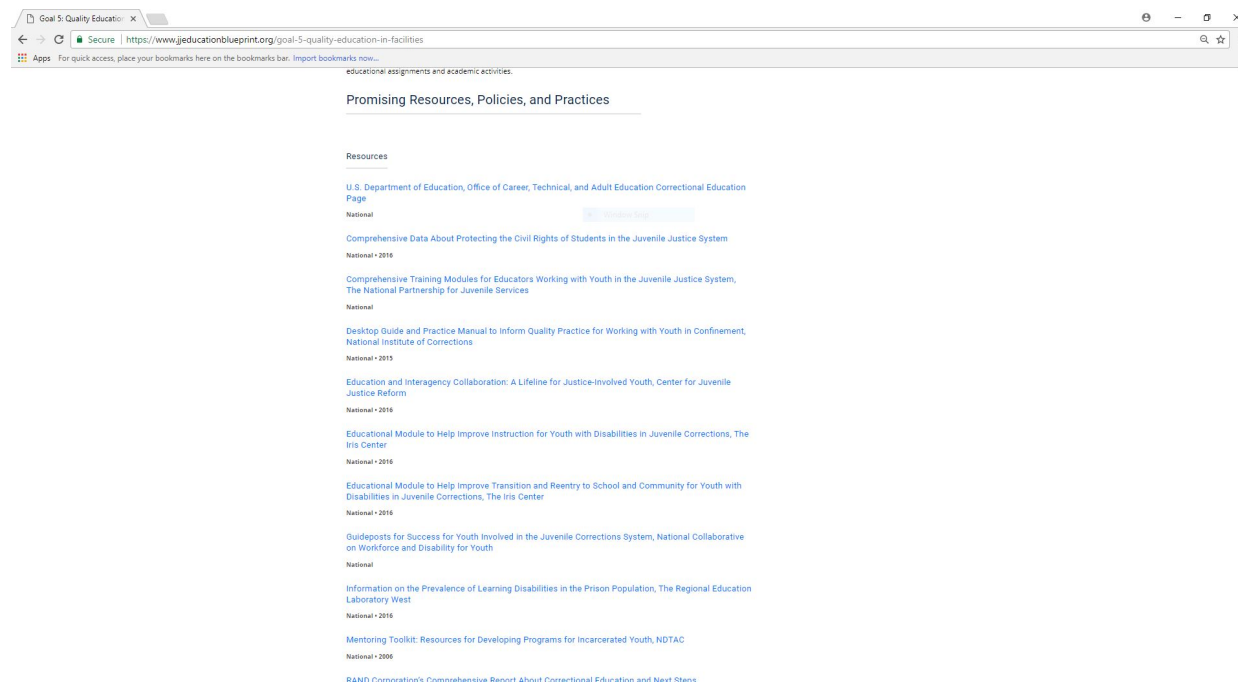
1: Youth are informed and entrusted to make decisions about their own education and future.



5: Youth in juvenile justice placements receive a high quality educational experience that enables them to stay on track academically.

- Benchmarks: <https://www.iieducationblueprint.org/goal-5-quality-education-in-facilities>
- Benchmark Themes
 - Regular assessment of educational needs
 - Obtaining records
 - High quality academics
 - Appropriate educational supports
 - Year-around education in placement settings
 - No denial of education because of discipline
 - Access to technology; internet

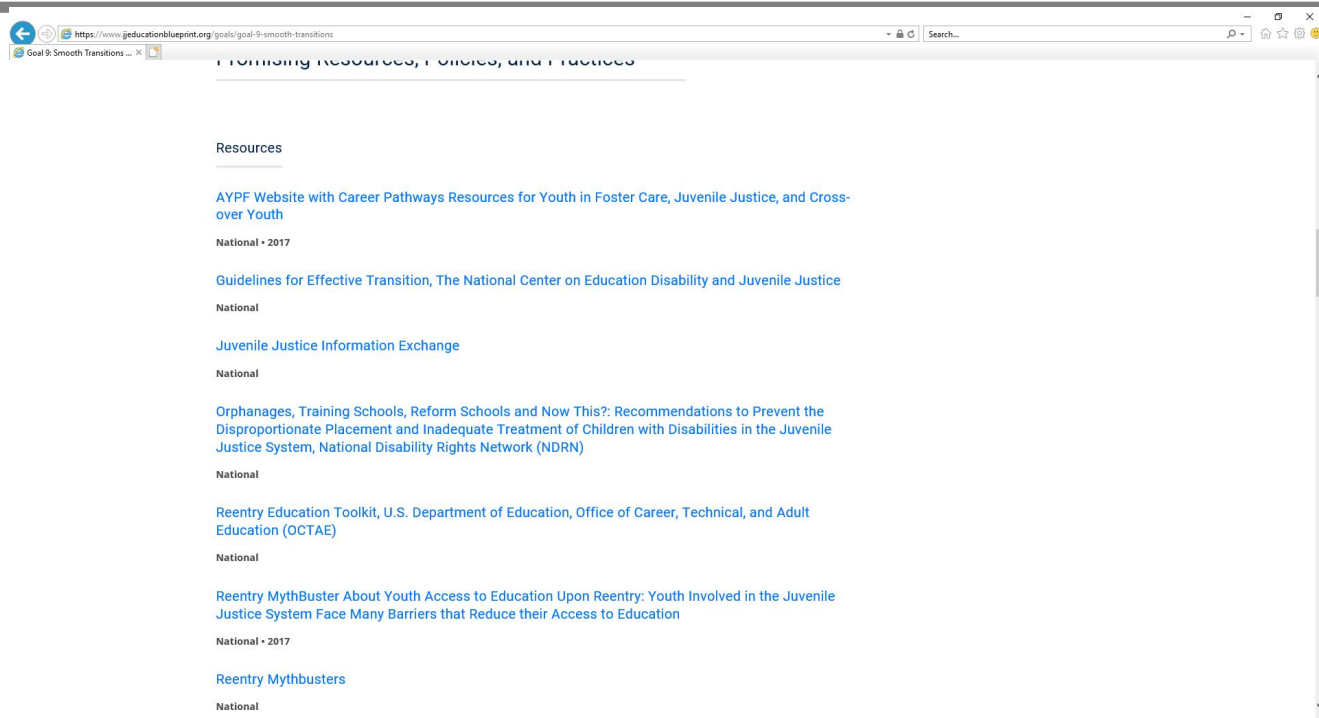
5: Youth in juvenile justice placements receive a high quality educational experience that enables them to stay on track academically.



9: Youth have smooth transitions between home schools and juvenile justice placements and receive effective reentry planning and supports.

- Benchmarks: <https://www.iieducationblueprint.org/goals/goal-9-smooth-transitions>
- Benchmark Themes
 - Education and re-entry planning
 - Comprehensive youth records are complete and all-inclusive
 - Transition coordinators and supports
 - Appropriate coursework
 - No automatic placement in alternative schools
 - Extracurricular activities

9: Youth have smooth transitions between home schools and juvenile justice placements and receive effective reentry planning and supports.





Contact Information

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Discussion and Questions

- What practices in the field have you seen that meet benchmarks of Goals 1 (Incorporating youth voice), Goal 5 (Education in facilities) or Goal 9 (Transitions)?
- What TIPD programs are you funding or practices/initiatives in your state that may help meet Goals 1, Goals 5, or Goals 9?
- What questions do you have about how each Goal or the Benchmarks can be applied to your programs?
- What questions do you have regarding the Blueprint for Education in general?